

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 151645Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2398

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 3919

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM, US, CU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN THOMPSON ON US/JAMAICA
RELATIONS, CUBA, AGEE, ETC.

REF: (A) KINGSTON 3587, (B) KINGSTON 3838

1. SUMMARY: LONG CONVERSATION OF SEPTEMBER 9 BETWEEN
AMBASSADOR AND FONMIN DUDLEY THOMPSON INDICATED DIVERGENCE
BETWEEN THOMPSON'S VIEWS, AND THOSE OF PRIME MINISTER'S
VIEWS AS EXPRESSED TO US BY LATTER. THOMPSON SEEMINGLY
CONVINCED U.S. IS "DESTABILIZING" JAMAICA, BELIEVES U.S.
FAILS TO UNDERSTAND JAMAICAN-CUBAN RELATIONS, AND MAKES GREAT
SHOW OF CONCERN OVER AGEE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON DUDLEY THOMPSON SEPTEMBER 9, HAVING REQUESTED
A "ONE-ON-ONE MEETING" OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS HIS REQUEST FOR
TOURIST VISA IN HIS NON-DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT IN ORDER FOR HIM
TO VISIT U.S. IN "PRIVATE" CAPACITY, AND TO CONVEY TO HIM
OUR CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF WANDERING INCOGNITO FOREIGN MINISTERS
,
ESPECIALLY IN MIAMI.

3. THE MEETING DEVELOPED INTO AN HOUR AND THREE-QUARTER
AFFAIR CONVERING MANY ASPECTS OF US-JAMAICAN RELATIONS.

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4. I INITIALLY RAISED THE MATTER OF HIS SPEECH AT THE

SRI LANKA NAMA (REFTEL A), DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME MINISTER, AND ASKED HIM AS A MATTER OF INTEREST WHETHER THE "HOSTILE" GOVERNMENTS HE HAD REFERRED TO INCLUDED THE U.S., POINTING OUT THAT THIS WAS RATHER STRONG LANGUAGE. AFTER PRELIMINARY WAFFLING HE LAUNCHED WITH VIGOR INTO THE THEME THAT THE PRESS ATTACKS IN THE U.S. ON JAMAICA CONSTITUTED A "HOSTILE" ATTITUDE. HE CITED ARTICLES IN THE "WASHINGTON POST" WHICH HE ALLEGED SAID THAT RASTAFARIANS WERE CUTTING THE THROATS OF TOURISTS. HE SPOKE OF THE SAUL LANDAU PIECE ON JAMAICA (REFTEL B) AS BEING THE ONLY OBJECTIVE RECENT ARTICLE, BUT THAT IT'S CONTENT HAD BEEN TOTALLY DESTROYED BY AN ACCOMPANYING "VICIOUS CARTOON" DEPICTING SOMEONE DIGGING A HAMMER AND SICKLE OUT OF A HOLE, THE OUTLINE OF WHICH WAS CLEARLY JAMAICA. (THIS HAD NOT OCCURRED TO ME OR OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS ALTHOUGH SUCH INTERPRETATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE). HE SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SOME AMERICANS IN A BAR AT MONTEGO BAY WHO TOLD HIM THAT THEIR TRAVEL AGENTS HAD WARNED THEM AGAINST COMING TO JAMAICA SINCE "GUERRILLAS WERE FIGHTING IN THE HILLS".

5. HE REFERRED TO THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF KINGSTON AS A "HARDSHIP" POST AS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF "DESTABILIZATION" BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL DENIAL -- AS THERE HAD BEEN NONE ON THE RESTON ARTICLE ON JAMAICAN POLICE TRAINING IN CUBA "WHICH HAD STARTED IT ALL". I TRIED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, AS ON A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS. AFTER DEALING WITH THE "HARDSHIP" CANARD, I MENTIONED VARIOUS ARTICLES WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE FRENCH AND CANADIAN PRESS BY PRESUMABLY OBJECTIVE REPORTERS. HE REPLIED THE FRENCH HAD ONLY "DONE IT ONCE" BUT THE CANADIANS WERE ALSO CAUSING TROUBLE NOW.

6. THOMPSON WAS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF WHAT HE CONSIDERED A TOTALLY DISTORTED VIEW OF THE CUBA-JAMAICAN RELATIONSHIP. HE WENT BACK IN RECENT HISTORY AND SAID THAT RELATIONS WITH CUBA HAD POSED A SPECIAL PROBLEM

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FOR THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN STATES, ESPECIALLY JAMAICA. HE REALIZED THAT THE U.S. HAD GLOBAL COMMITMENTS AS WELL AS SPECIAL PROBLEMS WITH CUBA BUT DID NOT SEE THAT THIS SHOULD PRESENT ANY OBSTACLE TO JAMAICA;9 :9 34 583 . HE DRAGGED OUT THE OLD LINE OF US-USSR DETENTE PROVIDING A WARRANT FOR JAMAICA'S ACTIONS, AND SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AT THE ATLANTA MEETING OF THE OAS.

HE SAID THE SECRETARY HAD NOT WISHED THE CUBAN ISSUE TO BE RAISED AT THAT MEETING AND THAT HE HAD COOPERATED, ONLY ASKING IN RETURN THAT HE BE ADVISED OF ANY CHANGE IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS "SO JAMAICA WOULD NOT BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD."

7. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, OF COURSE, ANGOLA HAD CHANGED EVERYTHING BUT VEHEMENTLY DENIED THAT CUBA HAD EXPANSIONIST AIMS IN THE CARIBBEAN OR THAT JAMAICA WOULD IN ANY WAY COOPERATE IN SUCH AIMS. HE LABELED AS SLANDER ANY ALLEGATIONS THAT THE GOJ WAS PRO-COMMUNIST. I RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE RECENT SPEECH OF THEIR AMBASSADOR BEN CLARE IN HAVANA, POINTING OUT THAT WHEN HE SPOKE OF JAMAICA'S UNDYING DEVOTION TO SOCIALISM, HE WAS SPEAKING TO PEOPLE WHO INTERPRETED "SOCIALISM" IN THE CUBAN OR RUSSIAN SENSE AND THAT CLARE MUST HAVE KNOWN THIS. THOMPSON CLAIMED HE HAD NOT THOUGHT OF HIS REMARKS IN THIS LIGHT.

8. I ASKED HIM IF HE WERE AWARE OF PHILIP AGEE'S VISIT. HE SAID HE HAD ONLY JUST HEARD OF IT AND INTENDED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH ME HIMSELF. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AGEE WAS BEING BROUGHT IN BY DENNIS DALY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AND THAT THIS WAS A NON-GOVERNMENT GROUP OVER WHICH THEY HAD NO CONTROL. HOWEVER, HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT IT AND HAD BEEN PLANNING TO CALL THE SECURITY FORCES. HE DESCRIBED DALY AS, "IF NOT A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, VERY CLOSE TO BEING ONE", "AGAINST EVERYTHING" AND SAID HE HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE.

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2399

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 3919

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

9. THOMPSON THEN PUT IN A CALL TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE CARL RATTRAY (WHO HAD BEEN ACTING SECURITY MINISTER IN KEBLE MUNN'S ABSENCE THE PREVIOUS WEEK) AND ASKED HIM TO PUT AGEE UNDER THE CLOSEST SURVEILLANCE. "FOLLOW HIM TO THE LAVATORY. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND THIS IS HOW HE FEELS." HE ALSO TOLD RATTRAY THAT HE HAD SENT OVER A NOTE ABOUT TWO STRANGE PEOPLE COMING IN, AND HE WANTED THEM WATCHED TOO. THOMPSON LATER INFORMED ME THAT THIS REFERRED TO ONE FRANKOVICH AND AN ASSISTANT, WHO WERE INTERESTED IN DOING A FILM ON AGEE AND HAD "BEEN PUSHING VERY HARD." (N?. LATER CHECKS INDICATED THAT ONE FRANKOVICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN COOPERATING ON A FILM WITH AGEE.) THOMPSON ALSO INFORMED ME THAT AGEE WOULD BE WARNED WHEN HE ARRIVED NOT TO MAKE ANY ANTI-US STATEMENTS "WHICH COULD BE REGARDED AS SUVERSIVE".

10. I ASKED THOMPSON HOW HE VIEWED US-JAMAICAN RELATIONS AT THE MOMENT AFTER POINTING OUT TO HIM THE DIFFICULTY I HAD IN ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING FOR JAMAICA GIVEN THE RATHER STEADY STREAM OF ACCUSATIONS AND INNUENDO DIRECTED AT THE US. HE SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THERE WERE STRAINS AT PRESENT BUT THAT HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE APPRECIATED OUR CONVERSATION VERY MUCH AND SAID THAT "WHILE WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, WE HAVE MADE A START".

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11. COMMENT: THIS WAS A CURIOUS PERFORMANCE, EVEN FOR THE EBULLIENT DUDLEY. I HAD GRAVE RESERVATIONS AT THE TIME ABOUT WHAT WAS AN OBVIOUS PERFORMANCE IN CALLING RATTRAY ABOUT AGEE, AND THOSE RESERVATIONS HAVE SINCE BEEN PARTIALLY CONFIRMED. THE CONVERSATION THROUGHOUT WAS ON A FRIENDLY PERSONAL BASIS, AND ANY SORT OF CONFRONTATION, OTHER THAN ON THE DIALECTIC BASIS THOMPSON SEEMS TO ENJOY, WAS AVOIDED. HOWEVER, I THINK SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF CREDIBILITY ARE RAISED ABOUT BOTH THOMPSON AND P.M. MANLEY.
GERARD

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